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6 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Donald F. Simpson,
6 June 1966

1. Mr. Donald F. Simpson, Assistant Secretary for Administration of HEW, read over the telephone the draft of a letter he had prepared for Secretary Gardner to send to Admiral Raborn. The letter reads essentially as follows:

"Dear Admiral Raborn:

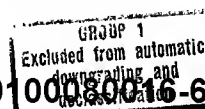
"In November 1961, this Department assumed responsibility for the preparation of Section 43 (Education, Religion, and Public Information) and Section 46 (Welfare) of the NIS.* The assumption of this assignment is contained in the letter of November 1961 from Secretary Ribicoff to General Cabell. I have discussed the matter with Mr. Richard Helms and have decided that it is no longer appropriate for this Department to carry out this assignment. It will be terminated as of June 30, 1966.

"To permit the orderly resumption by your agency of this work, we will certify to you the level of security clearance (or if appropriate, the status of investigation) for each employee assigned to this work, and will provide physical space and other administrative services for up to 3 months after July 1. I have been advised that your Agency will offer an appointment effective July 1, 1966, to each of these people at the same grade level now held.

"Our Division of Personnel Management will cooperate with you in every way.

"On receipt of your approval, we will proceed to carry this out."

*Presumably based on initial CIA request; subsequently, HEW also agreed to produce Section 42 (Characteristics of the People).

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2. After Mr. Simpson finished reading the draft letter, Mr. Brammell questioned the second paragraph about "Orderly transfer" to CIA. He asked specifically whether anyone in the Agency had agreed to the sentence which indicated that the "...Agency will offer an appointment effective July 1, 1966...at the same grade level now held." Mr. Simpson replied that no one had specifically agreed to this, but he had just put it in assuming that we wanted to keep the group together -- that we did not want a RIF. Mr. Brammell agreed that he did want to keep the group together, but could not agree to this statement. He said that he is still attempting several other alternatives; he is meeting with Census this afternoon, and plans to meet with Labor in the next day or two to investigate the possibility of one of these agencies taking over the group. Mr. Simpson agreed to delete the sentence about the Agency offering an appointment to each of the people.

3. Mr. Brammell then asked when this letter might be expected. Mr. Simpson replied that he hopes to show it to the Secretary this afternoon. If he approves, Mr. Simpson will again get in touch with Mr. Brammell.

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JAMES A. BRAMMELL
Director of Basic Intelligence

cc: Ex.Dir.-Comptroller
ADDI

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